

## **Skatepark Advisory Task Force Meeting #4**

### **Meeting Summary**

6/29/2006

Task Force Members Present: *Joe Bell, George Blomberg, John Carr, Susanne Friedman, Matt Johnston, Christine Larsen, Joyce Moty, Scott Shinn,*

Task Force Members Absent: *Jelani Jackson, Jeanne Krikawa, Nin Troung*

Guests: *Catherine Anstett, Steve Arai (AJEM), Laura Weigel(AJEM)*

### **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

### **Kudo's to Everyone, Project Schedule** *(Susanne Friedman)*

Ms. Friedman gave highlights of the City Council PELL and Board of Parks Commissioners briefings, she also recapped several community generated e-mails on the project. Copies of recent articles featuring the project were circulated for TF members to read.

Parks planning and development division was briefed on the siting criteria on June 26<sup>th</sup>, the recreation and operations committee was briefed on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Additional up-coming briefings include: Parks and Open Space Advocates on 7/7, and Friends of Olmsted Parks on 7/10.

A Task Force meeting has been scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>, to review the draft site list.

### **Discuss Key Points raised during community meetings** *(Steve Arai and Laura Weigel)*

AJEM provided a summary of all the comments collected during the public meetings. The community consistently mentioned the following topics:

- Where is the money coming from to build the skateparks once they are sited?
- Will BMX bikes be allowed in the parks?
- What is the demand in Seattle for skateparks? There were two sides to this question. Some citizens were concerned about building too many skateparks while other were concerned that skateboarders are not being served equitably by the City as compared to other sports field users such as tennis, baseball, football, soccer players etc.
- There is a concern about replacing green space with concrete.

The Task Force also discussed the criteria that received the most dots during the interactive "open house" segment of the public meetings, which are:

- "Are in close proximity to public transit, and have good foot, bike and vehicular access
- "Can be integrated into a larger park space that provides other park amenities."
- "Include a space for size appropriate viewing."

There were several comments received via email and through the comment box all the public meetings and the Seattle Parks sponsored Skate Open House at the Ballard Commons. The majority of the comments were very supportive of the planning process and of skateparks in general. There was one citizen who provided an alternative set of criteria for the Task Force to

consider. These criteria had some similarities to the existing criteria, but many of the criteria represented a very different intent than the existing criteria.

AJEM also provided the TF with the list of suggested sites compiled from the public meetings.

### **Reevaluate Criteria based on community comments**

After discussing all the public comments the Task Force concluded that the original criteria presented at the public meetings capture the majority of concerns of citizens and skateboarders alike. The Task Force decided to keep the original criteria.

### **Weighting Criteria**

The Task Force was given a sheet with all the criteria listed and asked to rank each criterion in order of importance as they apply to the three different sizes of proposed skatepark facilities (skatespot, district and regional). The assignment was also sent to TF members who were unable to attend the meeting.

There was a lot of discussion regarding how AJEM will compile the results of the exercise and apply weights to each criterion. AJEM will send a draft of the weighted criteria for each size facility along with an explanation of the method used to determine the numbers to the TF for comment. If any of the TF members feel AJEM's calculation method should change the TF can discuss through email.

### **Strategy for site evaluation over the summer (Susanne Friedman)**

The following steps for site evaluation were outlined and discussed with the TF:

1. Compile the complete list of suggested locations included suggestions from the community, Parks, SDOT, the Port of Seattle and the School District.
2. Susanne Friedman and Laura Weigel, will visit all the sites during July and early August. Scoring sheets based on the weighted criteria will be filled out for each site.
3. Although no sites have been selected yet, there are some sites that have received more attention than others. Therefore, members of the TF will work to speak with District Councils regarding popular site suggests (see more information below).
4. Proposed sites will be presented to the TF at the August 3 meeting for feedback.

### **Outreach and input to/from District Councils and Associated Recreation Council (John Carr)**

John requested volunteers to attend Neighborhood District Council Meetings to brief them about the skatepark planning process and inform them about potential site locations that were suggested by the community during the round of public outreach. Ideally, Task Force members will speak to Neighborhood Councils prior to Mid-September, but this may be a challenge due to summer break. If it is not possible to brief the councils prior to Mid-September volunteers should do so as soon as is possible.

Susanne Friedman will provide a list of contacts for the Neighborhood District Councils.